

THE BELL RINGER

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Montgomery Bell Academy

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Students Cheering Boosts Team

New Bleachers Not Helpful

by Justin Hall
Sports Editor

Friday nights mean high school football. For the players, it is a time to shine. A time for glory. A time for passion. A time to knock the snot out of someone. A time to prove that the months of effort are worth it.

But what about the fans? They are quite possibly one of the most overlooked aspects of the games. Fans, or a lack of them, can often make or break a

team's spirit. Just watch any college game, and you'll see how huge home field advantage is. I'd argue that MBA fans have been of the best quality this year they've ever been. They are passionate, proud, and loud.

Do the players appreciate this fan support? The answer is "yes!" MBA Junior Stephen "The Steve" Dolan says the fans are "a heck of a lot better than

last year's [fans]...the team gets more excited when the crowd is fired up." From painted chests to chants, this year's fan section has been utterly superior.

The fans packed the Vanderbuilt Stadium for the Clinic Bowl Kickoff Classic vs. Byrnes High School of South Carolina. Fans brought drums, cheered, and remained faithful throughout the 62-14 loss. *USA Today* ranks Byrnes twelfth in the nation as of October 24th, 2005.

After the Byrnes game, MBA began its home-game dominant schedule with a 17-13 victory over Trinity High School of Louisville, KY. Fan support was huge for this game, and the first of many drum lines and painting crews was born. Seniors painted their chests to spell out "GO BIG RED," and Student Body President Deon Gaines supervised solid performance of a makeshift drum line, which soon

became a familiar sight along the back of the endzone. Fans were deafeningly loud as Trinity was unable to score in the final minute. The location gave students easy access to the field, starting what has become the mini-tradition of storming the field.

After sending Trinity packing, the team and fans weathered a 24-0 loss to the MUS Owls. Painted chests and drumbeats just couldn't stop the Owls. Then came the slaughter of CPA on enemy territory. A landslide 24-0 victory over the Lions was highlighted by huge plays and the slogan "ROLL RED ROLL," proudly spelled across bare chests. But the team and fans were just warming up for the Christian Brothers game.

Fans overflowing and yelling proudly, MBA rolled over CBHS 27-14. The haphazard drumline solidified, organizing themselves with a recognizable repertoire of specific songs. A favorite

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Trey McMinn and Terrell McWhirter "WO"-it-up

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A Victim, A Survivor, A Citizen: George Mario

by Eric Hagemeyer
Features Editor

George Mario is, among many things, an expert on the meaning of the American dream. Fleeing for his safety from war and tumult in his native Sudan, he was finally able to emigrate in the late 90's, first to Eritrea, and later to the United States. Along the way he has both lost and found family members who did the same; for the latter he is eternally grateful and his demeanor shows it. His story from childhood to the present is an inspiring one.

"The conflict in Sudan goes back way before I was born," Mario said, "but things really changed in 1947." In that year, the British government pulled out of Sudan and many other African nations that it had previously governed. As a result, the clash between Northern Muslims and Southern Christians was

revived. Since the fourteenth century, when Islamic nomads finally conquered Northern Sudan, a conflict between resident Christians and foreign Muslims has raged. The second half of the twentieth century saw the worst of that conflict to date, and George Mario was a part of it.

Between 1956 and 1972, madness ensued as the remaining British influence allowed the takeover of the capital, Khartoum, by the Islamic regime. Unfortunately, it was during this period that Mario's life changed. "They killed my father because he was a politician. They wanted to eliminate the smartest people so the rest would be easier to convert to Islam." Mario fled Sudan and lived in Uganda until 1982, when things started looking up again for his country as a new peace agreement was signed, but the situation became even bleaker in the next year, when the Islamic government became even more oppressive. "That was when we started

taking up guns to protect ourselves," he said of the 1980's, despite the fact that 1982 had looked so promising economically. "Because both the North and the South were spending all their money on weapons, the economy really went down, and that's how things got bad."

The 1980's in Sudan were terrible across the board. Christians started standing up to the Islamic government and their *shari'a*, or fundamentalist law. "My children had to go to the *kalua* [Islamic grammar school]," Mario said, "and

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Mr. George Mario of the MBA Maintenance Crew



THE BELL RINGER

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Internet Blogging Captures the Fascination of Some; Others Wary

by Kevin Seitz
Editor-in-chief

Teenage culture is an ever-changing scene, where "fads" and "trends" come and go at a pace comprehensible only to those in the midst of the chaos technology brings. Modern culture is obsessed with being connected, from e-mail, to instant messaging, to cell phones, to cellphone text-ing (far superior for its instant, covert messages, ideal for the duller lectures). It's a constant race that some social psychology professor could explain, but I'll get to my point.

www.myspace.com, www.facebook.com, and other "blog-sites" have had their origins deeply rooted in the heart of the spirit of the internet since its conception. While it had formerly only lurked at the edges, it has recently exploded onto the scene of the MBA student community in a fashion only possible on the mythical "net". Simply, the sites provide, after a swift sign-up, a blank space for the posting of personal thoughts, profiles, and photos, but its truly astounding strength comes from its networking capabilities. The design revolves around the idea that the user can find sites of his or her friends and assign them to a "friends list", and from that point forward, post comments onto the sites of others. The concept in itself is simple, but exponential numbers are a tricky

business, and when coupled with the cut-throat nature of high school social interaction, a very massive beast is born.

One student put it best when he said plainly: "It provides a release ... by giving us a reason to search for funny pictures, create groups, and see what other people have put onto their profile." So essentially, in an ideal sense it functions as another form of communication, often quite helpful, as the student went on to say, "It's a good way to exchange and find out information on others that you have just met. If, for example, you meet a girl on the weekend and forget her name - for whatever reason - you can look her up through her friends and see what her # is - since you probably forgot that too, and other stuff about her...like if she likes *The Notebook*." Beneath his reasons lies a function of the web site which causes many to cast a skeptical glance of scorn at the colorful pages, covered in pictures, text boxes, and a repeating song loop.

It's addicting. What compels teenagers to spend vast amounts of free-time scrolling through pages upon pages of best friends, remote acquaintances, and anyone who happened to list "Death Cab for Cutie" under his favorite music column? Often, individuals use it to express their deepest of thoughts or emotions, which can come as an alarming means to express one's self, in a place visible to anyone who can make his way through the web of friend-lists, a skill that is honed to a deft instinct by the well-practiced. So where's the appeal?

The site presents a microcosm of a social life. The real world of perceptions, impressions, conversations, and

personal relations are condensed from their complex nature in reality down to simple comments that fit inside boxes, carefully crafted attempts at introspection, and images that are free to be selected, cropped, sharpened, or blurred. "So many girls look amazing on their 'myspace', but in real life... m'ehhh," said one recent convert. Truly, that potential for a controlled personal-construction could not be more appealing to someone clawing through the chaos of a high school life. Entire personalities can be fabricated with song quotes posted along headers, and scrolling in banners, defined by the large number that boasts from above the friends-list declaring precisely, numerically, how well-connected the user is.

No one will deny that this period of our lives is the first where we truly yearn to express who we are to the world, and these sites provide a willing and ready audience. The teenage-angst craves for nothing more, it's an arena for the social competition that underlies vast numbers of "friends" who have scarcely met the user who displays them. I will be contradicted by many who claim that they put nothing false on the site, and it simply provides an ideal forum of personal expression and an open field for interaction, so I offer this only as a warning. As the internet becomes a world increasingly separate from this one, and increasingly real, I only hope that we choose reason and confidence over motives and diffidence.

WRITE FOR
THE BELL RINGER
Thursday, November 10th,
7:30_{AM} in Mr. Gaither's Room
(W15)

Freshmen Happenings

Daniel Green
Staff Writer

This year's freshman class has taken the school by storm with their involvement and success in athletics and school activities.

The 9th grade football team has had an exciting and successful season. Led by offensive powers Patrick Crum and Hooper Paty and boosted by precision kicking by Houston Oldham, the Big Red have rolled to an impressive 6-1 record with their only loss coming from the talented school-wide rival, Father Ryan. The milestone win for the 9th grade football team came on October 21 against a very good McCallie team in a thrilling 21-20 victory, after recovering from a 20-point deficit. The final Big Red game against Lebanon High School should determine whether the team finishes its season with a 7-1 record.

For the varsity golf team, Nicholas Concepcion and Will Overton have contributed key scores in victories over Ensworth, USN, and Father Ryan and helped the Big Red to a 5th-place finish at the state golf tournament in Clifton, TN.

The varsity cross-country team has had a strong contribution by a

number of freshmen. Richard Brunsting, Matt Ratcliffe, Clayton Cothran, Nick Williams, and Taylor Land (to name a few) have made great finishes throughout the year and have contributed with personal bests to the Big Red effort. Frosh prodigy Baker Mulherin has placed in the top five and top ten in a number of varsity races.

Will Andrews and Houston Creighton have added clutch performances in victories over Brentwood Academy and the Webb School for the Big Red Bowling Squad.

The theatre productions have also had great contributions from this year's freshman class. Don Orr, Austin Archer, and Nicholas Caprioli performed in the theatrical phenomenon, "Footloose." Also, Don, Austin, and Clayton Cothran performed in the regional one-act play winner, "Oh, What a Lovely War," which they will perform in late October at the state-wide competition.

The novice debaters have participated in two tournaments so far. In the Baby Bell Tournament at MBA, Wyatt Redd and Jimmy Balser took 1st place, Rahul Sastry and Karl Mecklenborg took 2nd place, and Sam Page and Harrison Stringfellow took 3rd place in policy debate. Rahul Sastry also took 1st place speaker in policy debate. In Lincoln-Douglas debate, Daniel Green took first place and first speaker. The novices' second tournament was at Vestavia Hills in Alabama. There Sam Page took 4th place speaker in policy debate, and Connor Shope took 4th place and eighth speaker in Lincoln Douglas debate.

Senior Class News

by Michael Marks
Staff Writer

On the college front, several seniors have already received acceptance letters. Grey Palmore, Ashley Hill, McGavock Johnson, Tyler Moore, and Luke Brown have been accepted by the University of Mississippi. The Senior Class's Hurricane refugee/exchange student, Chris Peller, has also been accepted by Ole Miss, despite his lack of a transcript. David Robinson was accepted by Auburn University. Daniel Hightower has been accepted by the University of Alabama with a partial academic scholarship to their honors program. Mitchell Williams has been accepted by Auburn University. Taylor Shope has been accepted by the University of South Carolina and the University of Colorado-Boulder. Congratulations, guys, for getting into college and being the first to enjoy the Senior Slide.

As of 8:00 a.m. on Thursday morning, the senior class has submitted 200 college applications.

Houston Nelson, Teddy Christenberry, Parker Prevost, Luke Brown, and Daniel Hightower have been sidelined from football with injuries. But with the banning of Toby Simpson and

Elliot Nelson from weekly Backyard Football matches, this number is significantly reduced.

Seniors continue to be upset by the ridiculous Paper Football ban. To compensate, many have taken to displaying their full geek colors by completing the Japanese number puzzles affectionately referred to as "Sudoku."

David Buttrely and Nelson Berry are currently completing their Eagle Scout projects. David is building a 12-foot walking bridge in Edwin Warner Park, while Nelson has built a book cart for the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.

Kevin Seitz will be travelling to Nairobi, Kenya for 10 days at the end of October for a medical mission with Operation Smile.

Eric Bader has been appointed as the Mayor's Youth Liaison to the Planning Commission.

Despite the grade wheel, students of Crowell still miss their leader. If whoever stole the "physics" teacher would please return him, his quasi-cult would be eternally grateful.

There is talk that some seniors have even laid the foundation for an Astronaut Club.

The Senior Book Club is reading Jonathan Tropper's *Plan B*, which they will discuss during their next meeting.



Sophomore Stories

by Jay Milam
Staff Writer

The class of '08 continues to make many positive contributions to MBA. Class President Sloan Sanders, Vice President Ben Crownover, Secretary Andrew Snow, and Treasurer Frank Adelman are providing the class with great leadership.

The trip to Six Flags on "ten twenty-two" was some "serious sweetness" according to Coach Golenor. Highlights included Harpeth Hall girls and an "all you can eat" buffet.

Tyler Ramsden led the cross country team with a fourth place finish and a time of 16:25 at the Metro City Championships. Rand Woodson is continuing his dominance on the bowling team by bowling highs of 245 and 248. He is also a coach for the team. In golf, John Burch finished an impressive 30th in the state in the Division II Golf Tournament. Zan Berry played a solo on the cello in the first "Music in the Round." Brendan Mayhew is representing the sophomores by acting in the one-act "Oh, What a Lovely War!" which won the regional one-act competition.

All of the "Carr-trained chemists" have spent the past weeks working on the dreaded power-point presentation on four elements. Please keep welcoming our new 10th-graders from New Orleans: Zac

Crawford, who graduated from Oak Hill, and enjoys running cross country and track, and Max Webster, who is in the debate program. Max comments that, "The entire MBA community has been so helpful and kind, and they've turned what could have been a terrible situation into something not so bad."



MBA's "Oh, What a Lovely War!" won the regional one-act competition.

Junior Jargon

by Jackson Floyd
Staff Writer

Juniors Chase Altenbern, Everitt Barbee, and Jeff Eberle were key members of the cast of "Oh, What a Lovely War!" the one-act play which won the regional one-act competition and which hopes to

win the state competition in late October. Chase Altenbern also placed in the all-star class of this year's One-Act Competitions.

In the first-of-the-year "Music in the Round," junior Philip Cynn played a Brahms concerto with senior Jason Wallace, John Fontaine played a piece for the trombone, and Tyler Yarbrough helped lead the chorus in a pair of choral numbers.

The planning for this year's prom is well under way. Already the junior class has chosen a medieval theme. Scott Schwartz is in charge of the search for this year's band. Last year's poinsettia sales totaled over \$16,000, and the junior class is looking to surpass that amount.

The hockey team, featuring juniors Brooks Jones, Chipso Mulaisho, Weston Cowden, Rob Phipps, Zach Juszkievicz, Pat Manning, and Mark Piana has been practicing since August and is looking to contend for a state championship this year.

The juniors on the debate team have had much success this season. Jamie Berk and Kyle Davis reached the double octos, the elimination round before the final 15, at St. Marks; earlier they reached the finals at Wake Forest. Harrison Brown reached double octos at New Trier during Homecoming weekend.

Season Closing, Still Trucking: MBA Cross-Country

by David Reynolds
Staff Writer

The varsity cross-country team has shown heart and resilience this season to make the year another success. Despite the loss of three out of the top five runners (Bracey Wilson, Kevin Seitz, and Stockton Beveridge) in the first few weeks of school for almost the entire season due to injury, the team still battled through exhausting track workouts and physically draining long distance runs to fight its way back into the position of being a premiere team in the state. These 45-50 mile weeks prompted many a runner to depend on ice bags from the training room for sore calves, hamstrings, or knees, but prepared the team to make a run at winning several large meets during the season.

The Big Red dominated the early competition, destroying the fields at the Drake Invitational and an early season duel meet by fairly large margins. At the largest meets (in terms of numbers) of the season, the Tennessee Classic and AF Bridges, the lack of depth caught up to the varsity, and the undefeated season came to an end. We were able to muster a 3rd-place finish at the TN Classic but finished a dissatisfying 6th at AF Bridges. Despite the disappointing results, the team continued to improve and remain

focused as the Jesse Owens Invitational approached.

When the bus arrived at the meet in Moulton, Alabama, questions arose over why a course was built on sacred Indian burial mounds and where Moulton was on a map. Shaking these concerns off, the varsity ran its best race of the season, stomping the competition from Alabama and other southeastern states to finish 1st by about 35 points. Finishing in the top 15 for the Big Red in that race were Tyler Ramsden (3rd) and David Reynolds (13th). The aftermath of the unexpected victory was easily the highlight of the season, as all of the pain in our muscles eased up at least for a few hours as we celebrated the hard-earned victory.

Riding the momentum of the Jesse Owens, the Big Red marched into the District Championships, expecting nothing less than a 1st place finish. Almost all went well for the varsity, with six of the top seven running their best times of the season, but the competition triumphed over MBA, causing the team to place a bittersweet third, merely one point behind Father Ryan and several points behind FRA. Tyler Ramsden earned the title "Sophomore Sensation" here with an outstanding 16:09 three-mile time and 3rd-place finish at the meet, and Jason

Wallace also ran well with an impressive 10th-place finish (16:47).

Redemption was the only word on the minds of the top seven for the next week's Metro Championships, which both FRA and Father Ryan would attend as well as local powerhouses Brentwood High and USN. Stockton Beveridge's return to the varsity after his injury (stress fracture) also uplifted the spirits of the team before the important city championships. The team managed to take down FRA and Father Ryan for revenge from the last week's loss, but came up short against USN and BHS for a pleasing 3rd-place finish, knowing that they left it all on the Steeplechase. Tyler Ramsden again shined for MBA, taking 4th-place individually in an extremely competitive field. The rest of the varsity included Seniors David Reynolds and Jason Wallace (14th in Metro), Juniors Hayes Arnold, Jonathan Ustry, and Stockton Beveridge, and Freshman Baker Mulherin. Richard Brunsting will join the varsity at Region after winning the JV Metro race with an outstanding performance.

The JV team continued the tradition of excellence established by the legendary Barkley Simpkins by winning the Metro and Region meets. Senior Wynne Barton and Junior Gentry Smith lead the JV Big Red Harriers, with Freshmen Richard Brunsting and Matt Radcliff also achieving success. With spikes ready and conditions getting cooler, the cross-country hopes to peak their times, qualify for state, and come out victorious at the Region meet against DII rivals Brentwood Academy, Father Ryan, and USN. After Region, the state meet is just around the corner, where the Big Red looks to compete and defeat the top programs in the state.

Hockey Season's Back

Travis Brannon
Staff Writer

The students of MBA smell something in their near future. It smells like burning coal. It smells like crisp, winter air. It smells like raw meat on a grilling flame. It smells like Chipo Mulaisho and company about to dominate their competition in the upcoming MBA Ice Hockey season. Here's a glimpse about three or four weeks into the future.

In the outskirts of the Sportsplex parking lot, people of all ages and races gather around a small, burning grill, with pounds of man fuel loaded atop it. These diehard fans stand freezing in the cold November air, waiting for the MBA Hockey Game to begin. "The Final Countdown" is blaring on the ridiculously large subwoofers in a grey Jeep owned by an extremely Caucasian individual. Crude campfire songs are being licked out by an acoustic wielding musician. The largest of the group has his shirt off, begging for attention. The testosterone to estrogen ratio is off the charts. No, this is not a scene from heaven, but from one of the weekly tailgates thrown by avid fans of the hockey team.

After the undercooked burgers and infamous "Chipo-Dogs" have been devoured, the partakers prepare for an all-out bloodfest. Like soldiers preparing for war, the fans paint chests, create banners depicting gruesome scenes of infantile destruction, tune their harmonicas and baritone, and make the two-hundred yard march to the Ice Rink, The Arctic Arena, The Blizzards Battlefield, The Frigid Front Line (I think my main point here is that the teams play on ice and their game can be compared to a battle). As the troops file into the Sportsplex, they wait patiently for their heroes to skate onto the ice. Forming a human tunnel that would dominate Deon's meek pre-football game efforts, the hat-trick-hungry mob chants a war song of the gods: "Yay Rob! Yay Hunter! Yay Mazzoni! Maybe next year, Juszkievicz! Where's Skarzinski?"

Finally the Big Red makes their way onto the ice. Led by the returning seniors, Joseph Alexander, Hunter Armistead, and Alex Mazzoni, the team is coached by John Harvey. Juniors Pat Manning, Chipo Mulaisho, Brooks Jones, Zach Juszkievicz, and Rob Phipps handle the puck with grace and power. The sophomores and freshman are silently ignored, but I'm sure they will contribute some how. At this first game the crowd is dangerously loud, bloodthirsty, and cheesy. They distract the opposing team with their fierce notes of fury that explode from a ten-year-old baritone and a twenty-five-cent harmonica. The sea of Chipo T-Shirt-wearing maniacs lead the team to a twenty-five to nothing shutout. As the final buzzer sounds, the crowd is completely satisfied, and humbly walks out of the stadium into their cars. Let's hope I can see the future.



Cross Country Victorious in Moulton Alabama at the Jesse Owens Invitational

Students Cheering

continued from p.1

among the fans has proven to be the "We're gonna beat the hell outta you" chant. Senior James Banker even commented, "We've had some really solid fans this year."

The team then traveled a short distance to face Pope John Paul II. While the cross-town journey discouraged many, the support materialized nonetheless. No painted chests or excessive cheering made an appearance, but the Big Red steamrolled JPII 28-6. The defense successfully neutralized JPII star Golden Tate, even with the decline in fans for the away game.

Again back at Tommy Owen Stadium, the Big Red rolled across Father Ryan and then crushed Brentwood Academy at our homecoming match. Ryan was taunted with cheers of "Get your own stadium," while BA was assaulted with "Signing bonus" echoing all the way down Estes. Record numbers of painted chests, drums, plastic-bottle shakers, and wooden whistles earned fans well-deserved photos in the Davidson A.M. section of the *Tennessean*.

Fans stuck through the cold to support MBA to its thrilling 28-21 double-OT victory over McCallie after a bye week. A group of five dedicated seniors painted their chests to spell "GO MBA," and the junior class provided drum leadership. After this amazing brawl of a game, fans stormed the field, carrying and waving MBA flags and congratulating the team. One can only guess what type of fan support will be at the Baylor game. It will determine state playoff seeds.

Yet there is a downside to this year's fan and student section. The students have been moved to the end zone nearest the main gate. Senior player Will "Pickmaster" Barge expresses the first of several problems with the new seating: "The fans are great, but sometimes it's hard to hear y'all when we're on the other side of the field." This is a common sentiment among many players and coaches.

The second problem this section presents is the lack of students actually in the stands. Most underclassmen (sophomores and below) socialize behind the bleachers, oblivious to the game. The students are thus not involved in the game. They are not in their designated student section, and the real stands look barren and empty. Unfortunately, the passion of the senior and junior classes cannot make up for this lack of bodies in the stands.

Third, depth perception is non-existent in the end zone. Trying to determine how long a play was is next to

impossible. Frustration is abounding when Michael Crum tries to start a "first down" cheer and the yards gained are unclear. Yet week after week juniors and seniors pack the student section to cheer for the team.

There has also been a serious limit on the freedom of students in the student section. The human tunnel to lead the team onto the field must be quickly disassembled before opponents march onto the field. Students have been confined to their area by chain-link barricades. They were also not permitted to go cheer in the opposite end zone during the second overtime of the McCallie game. The student section may have been a bad idea after all.



Pep-rally preps players and fans alike.



Deon's fan tunnel funnels the team to victory.

Hopefully, the fans will be able to follow the team to the state championship game. Regardless, the team has had a very successful season thus far. Fans can only hope that they and the cheerleaders have contributed at least a little to the player's morale- on the field. But this fan support cannot die out with the football team. The impact fans have on sports outside of football is tremendous as well. So regardless of your favorite team, get out and support them. Seniors have provided a great deal of support already this year. Cheer on the bowling team or cheer for Microbe Soccer. Cheer for any team at this school. Go watch your fellow students. Just get out, be loud, and be proud to cheer for the MBA Big Red.

MBA travels to Baylor Friday, October 28th to determine playoff seeding and sites.

GO BIG RED!

Is The TSSAA Fair?

by Travis Brannon
Staff Writer

Many are aware of the several New Orleans and Mississippi families that have sought refuge after the catastrophes following Hurricane Katrina. The Volunteer State has welcomed them by offering places to live, work and continue their education. MBA, along with many other schools in Nashville, has provided several teenagers with a chance to continue their high school career during their time away from home.

The boys' families were not charged tuition for the first semester of the 2005-2006 school year, and they were given the chance to continue their high school life even after such trying circumstances. MBA attempted to make the boys feel at home with as comfortable a surrounding as possible. They were allowed to continue their extracurricular activities, with one exception: the TSSAA decided to ban these children from competing in their varsity athletic events.

Upon arrival to MBA, Zac Crawford, a sophomore, requested to join the cross country team. When registered as an athlete in the TSSAA, he was ruled ineligible on the grounds that the financial aid his family had received surpassed the organization's regulations. Every refugee athlete was given the same ruling, and the TSSAA stated that these students have not suffered any undue hardship related to tuition matters. The organization was

concerned about decisions that would cause precedent for themselves and stood by their regulations regarding financial aid. Although seemingly harsh and unjust, the TSSAA reached this decision in order to maintain their rigid stance on financial aid.

Hearing this news, Mr. Gioia and the principal of Father Ryan High School, James McIntyre, wrote a letter to *The City Paper*, stating their opinion on the matter. In the letter, the two headmasters informed the paper of the TSSAA's decision to rule the athletes ineligible due to their receiving financial aid. They went on to state that the schools were advised by The National Association of Independent Schools to grant the refugees a gratis education and that the ineligibility ruling was "unfair and incongruent with the spirit of both the TSSAA and the compassion within our country at large." Lastly, the headmasters proposed that the TSSAA "analyze each school individually and rule the students eligible at that point."

Although the problem has been addressed by Mr. Gioia and the administration, it really causes little issue at MBA. Zac Crawford runs junior varsity cross country, so he is allowed to race in all competitions. The other New Orleans athlete, Eli Gay, plays tennis, and, hopefully, the matters will be resolved by next spring.

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Vanderbilt Hope Flares and Fades

by Davey Douglas
Staff Writer

Do you believe in miracles? I did, up until about a month ago, when Vandy was 4-0 for the first time since the Dark Ages and looking to have a legitimate chance to take on LSU with a 5-0 record. Vandy fans were excited with serious bowl and SEC championship talk swirling around, and then everything turned sour.

Many fans (including yours truly) were already thinking about the LSU game, believing our Commodores would have no problem handling the Blue Raiders of MTSU to move to 5-0. But MTSU prevailed 17-15, and the dream season started to turn into a nightmare. Instead of being 5-0, Vandy was now 4-1 with tough games against LSU and Georgia looming.

To add injury to insult, Commodore receiver George Smith was shot the night of the MTSU game. Having a gunshot wound appear on the injury report is never a good omen, and, sure enough, the Vandy-of-old returned. They played LSU close for three quarters but did not have the strength to go four, and LSU rolled to victory.

After losing the next week to Georgia, and then, to Carolina, falling to 4-3, Vandy bowl talk is a distant memory. Now

instead of being in contention for a recognizable bowl game, the team will be lucky to earn an invite to the Mastercard-Visa-Capital-One-No-Hassle-presents-the-Goodyear-Tire-Bowl in Nowheresville, Idaho.

One team that has not experienced its usual midseason fade is Texas, led by Steve McNair pupil Vince Young. Now if only the teacher could be as good for the Titans as the student is for the Longhorns! After beginning the season with a typically high ranking, the Longhorns have uncharacteristically remained at the top of the BCS. Usually the team was good for a loss to Oklahoma, and maybe one more loss before the end of the season. Ending their five-year winless streak in the Red River Shootout, Texas finally got the Oklahoma monkey off their back. Granted, Oklahoma was severely depleted on offense, with their starting QB from last year, former Heisman winner Jason White, having played briefly in the NFL for part of training camp before retiring, and both their starting receivers moving on the NFL as well. Defenses have finally figured out how to stop Adrian Peterson and have squashed the Heisman buzz he generated in the preseason. With their toughest games against Oklahoma and Ohio State behind them, Texas looks to cruise to a Rose Bowl showdown with USC, who should remain comfortably in the number-one spot they have occupied for 28 straight games.

The Trojans survived their toughest test in several seasons, squeaking out a win over the Fighting Irish, as Matt Leinhardt found the endzone with no time left and Touchdown Jesus looking down in disapproval. Because both USC and Texas look to have a good chance to go undefeated the rest of the season, and both occupy the #1 and #2 BCS spots, a national championship game between the two looks to be imminent.

While this would be an exciting game pitting two top teams against each other, undefeated teams such as Alabama, Virginia Tech, and Georgia will have no chance to enjoy a slice of the national championship pie. The Tide finally righted their sinking ship, overcoming numerous recruiting violations, Mike Price's brief but damaging scandal and party-filled tenure as

the head coach, and injuries to star players to remain undefeated this season and in the Top 5. The flawed system that is the BCS lets only two teams play for the national championship, while other deserving teams are allowed only to play in the remaining

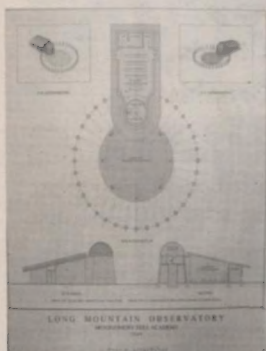


three BCS bowls. Implementing a playoff system that allows the top 8 teams to compete for the national championship would make the BCS more legitimate, and much more interesting.

MBA Unveils Expansion Plans

by Alec McGuffey
Features Editor

You may recall hearing about the 225 acres of land MBA acquired on the Cumberland Plateau last year. You may also recall that on this hefty chunk of land called Long Mountain, MBA has been



Observatory Plans

planning to build walking trails, fields, and cabins to serve as a retreat area for students. What you may not have heard, however, is that the school recently confirmed plans to construct a large observatory on this new land and is currently finishing funding the project.

MBA applied for a \$100,000 grant from the E.E. Ford Foundation to begin the project and then went on to raise another \$400,000 to have enough to pay for the hefty half a million fee attached to construction of the observatory. Mr. Gioia told me that there are currently two primary architects looking to design the observatory: David Bohman and Tuck Hinton (who has designed the Davis Building and Patrick Wilson library among other buildings on campus). Mr. Gioia hopes that he can sit down with the two architects at some point and "work to create a design for the observatory that combines both of their own visions for the project. Mr. Bohman," Mr. Gioia adds, "is an avid astronomer, so his personal passion for such a project may lead to an even more impressive design."

Once the observatory is finished (there is no date currently planned for completion of the project), it is the school's wish that students will be able to visit for special class projects, and it will by no means be limited to astronomy students. The entire MBA community will be welcome to visit, as well as Harpeth Hall students and any other schools with which MBA is involved.

While talking with Mr. Gioia, I also asked him about the possibility of a new academic building on campus. He confirmed that plans are under way to create a new academic building behind

Wallace, and that once the building is complete, the dining hall will most likely be moved to the upper floor of Wallace from its current location in Davis. Some of the music rooms on Davis's top floor will be moved to take the dining hall's place. The new academic building will have three floors: the top will be used to house the classrooms displaced from Wallace by the moving of the dining hall; the second floor will be primarily technology related; the bottom floor will be the new home of the debate program, whose current building will be removed to make room for the new building.

It is planned that the tennis courts will also move, to be replaced by more parking which will allow for all students to have on campus parking spaces. The tennis courts will move to replace some of the houses MBA currently owns on Brighton (there are 15, of which MBA owns 11). Construction on the project may not begin for several years, since large amounts of funding will be needed to proceed with the project, but if all goes well, it seems that MBA will soon improve upon its already excellent campus.



Sharbel Coaches Cross-Country, American History

New Faculty Interview: Colonel Joseph A. Sharbel

by John Bibb
Staff Writer

What do a pair of thin-rimmed gold glasses, a dark black crew cut, and a coat and tie have in common? Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Sharbel.

Born in Nashville, Mr. Sharbel graduated from George Peabody College at Vanderbilt with a Bachelor of Science in History. He then, in 1983, was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. A year later, after finishing Officers Basic School and completing the U.S. Army Armored Officers Course in Kentucky, he became Platoon Commander in the second Tank Battalion.

In 1985 he was promoted to First Lieutenant. He took one year off of active service and joined the Reserve as an Embarkation Officer in the Marine Air Group. Later that year, he became the Platoon Commander with the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion. In 1988, Mr. Sharbel returned to the active service as an officer, and later Captain, in the reserve.



Over the next sixteen years of service, Lieutenant Sharbel earned titles such as: Head of Systems Support Branch in the Re-

serve Major, Manpower Systems Analyst, Wartime Plans Officer, Assistant Chief of Staff for the F1 Manpower and personnel in the Reserve. He also served as the Operations Officer for the Iraq Survey Group in Baghdad. In Djibouti, Africa he was an Information Operations Officer. He is currently an American History teacher and cross-country coach at MBA.

Now that you know his resume, it's time to get personal:

Q: When did you marry Carrie (his wife)?

A: December 1991.

Q: What do you like most about MBA?

A: "The students working in an academic environment that is focused on a clear purpose...the development of Gentlemen, Scholars, Athletes."

Q: What was your inspiration to teach?

A: "I was first inspired to teach by my father, who taught me many of life's important lessons. While not a classroom teacher, he was the father of eight happy children, an accomplished boxing coach, and a mentor to many grateful young men."

Q: What made you want to come and teach at Montgomery Bell Academy?

A: "Our city has a storied reputation for providing willing and capable citizens to serve their communities' and their nation's interest. Montgomery Bell Academy works

today to sustain that reputation through the academic, athletic, and ethical preparation of many of Middle Tennessee's best young men for higher education and leadership responsibilities. It is a real privilege to be a part of the MBA community."

Q: Who is your hero?

A: "My father is without a doubt my hero. He grew up under very austere circumstances, spending his young teenage years struggling to help his family survive the Great Depression. In December, 1941 he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and participated in three major campaigns in the South and Central Pacific. After the war, he returned to Nashville where he worked as railroad brakeman and successfully raised a large family. As a young boy, I was privileged to learn from his experiences. He was a model of modesty, selflessness, and community service."

Q: What is the hardest thing so far this school year?

A: "I have received a wonderfully warm welcome by the MBA community. Life at MBA simply gets better and better. It is a real honor to be able to work with such great young men in the classroom and on the cross-country team."

Eddie Does Chicago. Artistically.

by Eddie Ebbert
Staff Writer

So, where did you spend your fall-break weekend? Home? The mall? How sad. While you were at the movies deciding how to waste your mom's \$7.75, Jim Womack, Cal Fuller, and an intrepid group of 7 art and theatre enthusiasts were busy discovering the city of Chicago. Freshmen were represented in the group by the famous Nicolas Caprioli, seniors by Elliot Nelson, Bracey Wilson, Derek Pitman, John Rocco, and yours truly. Not to be forgotten, though, is the only *real* southerner, Australian exchange student Chris Kalandadse.

This eclectic group left BNA at 6:55AM on Thursday morning and arrived at Chicago's Midway airport around the start of 1st period, prepared for a day of art and theatre educational fun. We boarded Chicago's "El" train system and rode the Orange Line to the Congress Hotel, once a fairly ritzy place now in various stages of disrepair. Although the elevators are possessed and the lobby reeks of cigarettes and old women, it is its central location that makes this hotel so incredible. Directly across the street (Michigan Ave.) is Chicago's famous Millennium Park by Frank Gehry, a park that features a bonnet-shaped stainless-steel amphitheatre and a gigantic chrome bean. Two blocks away from the hotel is

DePaul's downtown tower and an "El" stop on the loop that could take us anywhere in the city.

Our first stop on Thursday morning was the Art Institute of Chicago,

the one from *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. This

gallery is world-famous and rightfully so; inside are landmark pieces that represent the entire

spectrum and history of visual art. We spent the entire morning there. Having walked for hours through gallery after bench-less

gallery, we found our legs tired of such cerebral activity and hopped on the train to our next - decidedly less highbrow - destination: Uncle Fun, a hole-in-the-wall joke shop full of hilarious and off-color items to be had rather cheaply. Uncle Fun

is a crucial destination for any serious theater/art student looking to party. Inside are such essentials as itch powder, fake excrement, rubber mice, coloring books, and those trick pens that shock you when you try to use them. Down the street from

was not a lie: they're massive. Sufficiently overstuffed, our fearless group rode (and walked) to the final destination for the night: The Oriental Theatre and a showing of *Wicked*, Broadway's latest novel-based hit, starring SNL's Ana Gasteyer. All I can say is that the show is good, very good...I suggest everyone eventually see it.

The next morning, we left the hotel early and headed to an improv workshop by the world famous Second City comedy troupe, a sketch company similar to (but better than) Saturday Night Live. We learned here all the secrets of the pros who do improv on shows like "*Whose Line Is It Anyway?*" After two solid hours of "instruction", I can honestly say that seeing certain members of this group put on the spot and forced to perform was

probably the funniest thing I've ever seen. Ever. Then we went to the mall. This

continued on next page



Mr. Womack's group reflects.

the joke shop is an amazing pizzeria called Giordiano's, seller of that famous Chicago-style deep dish pizza. Being a pretty big kid myself, I scoffed when told that I could probably only eat two pieces. I can, however, assure you all that this

In Search of a Bit of Beef: Burgers Compared

by Taylor Shope
News Editor

For this issue I went out to evaluate several of the nearby burger joints. Most of them met with my approval. The four that I tested were Fat Mo's, Rotiers, Checkers, and Cheeseburger Charlie's.

Fat Mo's was a bit of a different experience. The food itself was very good; the burgers char-grilled to the exact flavor that I would expect of a home-cooked meal. The fries were also well done, with the precise amount of spice for the taste buds. The price was also reasonable, but I suppose that you really do get what you pay for. The dining room service I found to be lacking severely. I must also say that Fat Mo's gets most of its business through the drive-thru, which would explain why the dining room consists of about three tables and one waiter who just kind of tosses your food in your direction when it's ready.

Overall Rating: 3.5/5

Next on the list was **Rotiers**. Known throughout the city, they have a huge local clientele, as well as many tourists who make it a point to stop here for lunch on their adventures around the town. The style of the dining room is modeled after a fifties-era diner, like that

which one would expect to find in Memphis or the New Orleans of old. The service was far better than what I received at Fat Mo's, with an actual waiter who took your order, versus just an ordering. There is no drive-thru window here, just take out, but I find that that adds to the atmosphere in the place. The food was tasty, even though it is a little pricey. The

(sold separately!) cost me roughly eight bucks.

Overall Rating: 4/5

The third stop was **Checkers**, which has been recommended to me on several occasions but which I found to be lacking. They ONLY have a drive-thru, and the only people that I saw while I was

friendly. The food ended up being all right, but not anything special to speak of. The employees were friendly and expedient, but it still seemed like a type of McDonalds on steroids.

Overall Rating: 2.5/5

The last place that I visited was **Cheeseburger Charlie's**. Conveniently located adjacent to the Green Hills movie theater, it is accessible to seniors for off-campus and comes highly recommended. The place is also decorated in the fashion of a soda joint from the fifties, but Charlie's is much brighter and has a more welcoming atmosphere. It resembles the soda shop in the movie *Grease* pretty well, complete with every piece of the furniture in chrome and red leather. The food I found to be very good, again with that right amount of spice to tingle the taste buds. My burger was both large and grilled to perfection, both of which I found to my liking. There are no waiters here, so you serve yourself the condiments, which are also plentiful and numerous. The buffet reminded me of the fixin's for your sandwich at a Jersey Mike's. Then you move on to the sauces, which included barbecue sauce, and I think that I also saw mayonnaise. My only complaint is that along with Rotiers, I found it to be pricey, due to its prime Green Hills location. My burger, fries and a Mello Yellow cost about eight bucks.

Overall Rating: 4/5



Rotiers: a favorite of off-campus lunches for over half-a-century

portions are a little small, similar to a Steak n' Shake. A burger and a plate of fries

there were construction workers and other various people who didn't look too

Chicago

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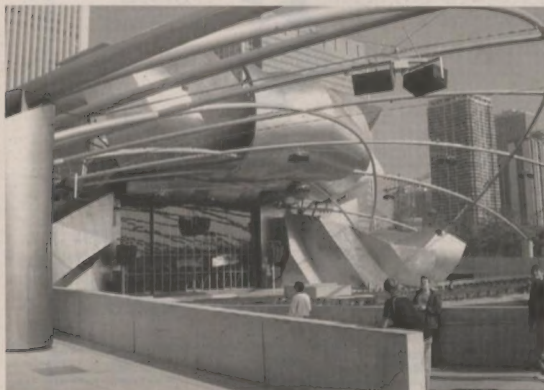
Rocco finds himself in a distorted reality, again.

was not just any mall, but a colossal seven story mega-gigantomall directly on Chicago's magnificent mile. There's not much interesting to be said about the mall, though, except that they have a top-notch food court. Our next destination was Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA, for short). On display in the gallery was a retrospective of work by Dan Flavin, an artist who worked exclusively with fluorescent lighting. Although the work was incredibly powerful, there was an overlarge amount of...well...light. I'm sure someone ended up with eye cancer. To round out the day, we went to a showing of Stephen Dietz's *Last of the Boys*, a play about Robert McNamara that managed to be both uproariously funny and believably tragic.

Early Saturday morning, we set off again to see the sites, specifically for a tour of Chicago's diverse architecture by MBA's own Jim Womack, art ninja and unofficial tour guide. We began at the Illinois Institute of Technology, a campus designed in large part by renowned modern architect Mies van der Rohe. Most of the buildings on this campus reflect his concept of clean simplicity in

design and are undeniably cool. Having toured the campus, spending a good while in the ridiculously strange post-modern student center, we headed for a boat tour of the city. A full description of this ninety-minute-long architectural tour would take forever and would be boring, but I highly recommend the experience for anyone interested in architecture or Chicago or in just riding around in a boat for an hour in a cool city. That night, however, was the biggest yet for the Chicago trippers: Saturday night is Second City night. Highlights of the show include an absurdly funny skit about an old woman in a pharmacy, John and I becoming a (unwilling) part of one sketch, and a skit about an evil Chinese restaurant. I would tell you more, but it'd ruin the surprise. Unfortunately, this show was the official end of the trip.

The flight home on Sunday was certainly a downbeat one. I found myself in city withdrawal. How can I return to drab Nashville after seeing a city with real culture instead of strip malls and bad pop-country music? College can't come soon enough.



(l to r) Mr. Womack, Chris Kalandadse, Nicholas Caprioli, and Elliott Nelson gawk at the amphitheater.

Jay Gets in on the Admissions Process

by Jay Milam
Staff Writer

How does MBA continue to have the very best students in the state? It all starts with the admission process. In the seventh grade, about 150-200 students apply each year to fill about 100 spots. When asked how MBA maintains such an outstanding student body, Mr. Black responded, "We're after well-rounded students who want to get involved." MBA deploys marketing to ensure that it gets applicants from all over the Mid-State, even as far as Clarksville.

Mr. Black also says, "The new Ensworth High School is healthy for MBA and all independent schools and makes us review our own strengths and to challenge ourselves."

On October 23, MBA experienced a

very successful Open House for prospective students. About 175 applicants arrived at Open House, and students did a great job giving tours and visiting with the families. The interaction with MBA students is the best part of the admission process, and as Mr. Black says, "Prospective parents and students are most excited after they have just been given a tour." Thank you to everyone who helped at Open House and made it such a success!



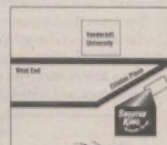
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Mario Citizenship

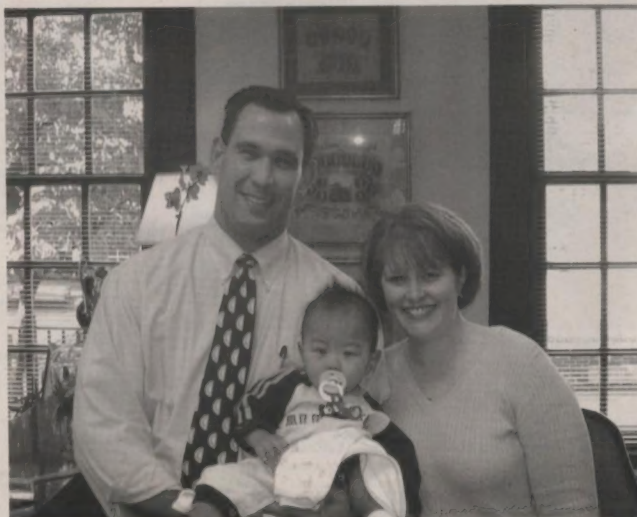
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on Fridays I was able to see them, but one day when I came to pick them up, some people came and took them from me." This episode at the school was not the only of its kind for Mario. "There was a shooting at the school I was at, and a lot of my colleagues died, but years later I met some of them and found out that they were alive." All of the violence stemmed from the Muslim's one motivation: win Christian converts. By their logic, they had to apply pressure to the Southern Sudanese by any means necessary—often with violence, but most of the time with the promise of economic support. "They would give you money," he said, "if you converted, or you converted other people, or you could build them a mosque. But if they saw that you couldn't follow the law, then you were in trouble." One of the last years Mario was in Khartoum was 1994, when he saw more troubling sights, especially the African Islamic Center: "It was a school where they would send people from other countries, from all over Africa, and the Muslims were teaching them about what they were doing in Sudan, and how they could do the same in their countries."

By the end of the 90's, George Mario was on his way to becoming an American. "I went to the U.S. Embassy and to the U.N. in Eritrea to get interviewed, and they gave me a visa to come to the United States," he said. By 1999, Mario had settled in Nashville, where he was employed by Montgomery Bell Academy. After talking with him, it became clear that MBA is the perfect place for Mr. Mario, especially for the kind of person he is and for the skills he possesses with language. When asked about any language barriers, he said, "No, I don't have any trouble with English. I speak Arabic, and I speak Swahili. I learned English in school." Mario is extremely useful to the maintenance staff because of his ability to translate between workers. But what draws him to MBA personally is "the people," he said. "They are so friendly." He talked about being in the hospital a few years ago and getting a message from the office that really made him happy: "Brad was thinking about you."

Mr. Mario's citizenship process, though complicated, seems to him a nice reward after a harrowing series of events. He said going back and forth between

The Bell Ringer Staff Congratulates Mr. Hiett and his Newly-Increased Family!!



Nashville and Memphis to get fingerprinted and to take his American history test was not a problem, especially the test. Mario has been a good student all his life, and learning about people like Thomas Jefferson was a privilege to him. "All men are created equal," he repeated proudly. "It means that if we stick together, we can do anything. In Sudan, in the Middle East, people don't understand that. There's that tribe, and this tribe, and they don't speak the same language. They don't understand democracy." What was especially interesting was his opinion of our war in Iraq. "If they asked me to go fight today, I would go," he said. "I know Muslims. I know the people we are fighting. They don't respect international law, and they won't respond unless we do something serious, so I support what George Bush is doing."

The situation in Sudan and elsewhere continues along these same lines of division. Millions have been killed, but many have fled secretly from George Mario's home country, including his mother and brother. He talked about greeting his mother at an American airport recently: "Do you know how long it has been since I last saw my mother?" he asked. "I was nineteen. We didn't even recognize each other." Mario's brother is in Cairo currently, and trying to immigrate to the U.S. as well. This is the issue presently on his mind, in addition to raising money for an international airport in Sudan for others to be able to leave, but at this point, he is satisfied just to be an American.

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Rescheduled, Green Day Delivers and More

by Kevin Thomas
Staff Writer

Walking through the doors of GAC, I was hit by a schizophrenic array of tunes by Jimmy Eat World, a band born in 1994 in the arms of the Grunge period of rock. Ending with "Come On," Jimmy Eat World abandoned the stage, promising the rabid crowd Green Day's appearance. As the roadies set the stage with equipment, the mood was being set with such ramped-up songs as Cheap Trick's "Surrender" and Queen's "We Will Rock You" over the loudspeakers, priming the crowd for Green Day's entrance. The lights went out, the punk rock group with seventeen years of rocking came out, and the crowd jumped up and out of their skin.

Influenced by the Who, Sex Pistols, the Clash and other punk rock bands of the '70s, Green Day did justice to the genre. Opening with their recent hit "American Idiot," the audience was immediately engaged in the show. Frontman Billie Joe Armstrong did a "rebel yell," expressing his contempt for our President, using an extensive vocabulary

of curse words. That display got the crowd's attention. The band jump-started the show by playing some of their more recent songs, off their latest album *American Idiot*, such as "Jesus of Suburbia," "American Idiot," and "Holiday." They then returned to their roots with "20,000 Light Years Away" off *Kerplunk*. Following with "Basket Case," "She," and "Sassafras Roots" (off their most successful album, *Dookie*), Armstrong randomly announced that he wanted to form a band from the audience: Right here, right now!

He called first for a drummer and a 12-year-old kid with a spiked Mohawk leaped on stage and started pounding the drum kit with good skill. He followed by shouting to the audience for a bassist and then a guitarist, who both came onto the stage pumped and ready to jam (a Green Day song, naturally). For the chosen few, this was a concert to remember. And for the other 17,000 of us, their song made famous by the 100th episode of *Seinfeld* expressed it best: "There's something unpredictable, but in the end it's right, I hope you had the time of your life."



Despite the eyeliner, Billie Joe Armstrong still rocks

A Review: *Book of Joe* by Jonathan Tropper

Hilarious first novel
definitely not Biblical

by Michael Marks
Staff Writer

In his first novel, published in January of this year, Jonathan Tropper recreates the story of the prodigal son in this hilarious tale of Joe Goffman's return to his home at Bush Falls, Conn. Joe, a one-hit wonder novelist, made his career by revealing the secrets of his hometown, complete with embellishments. Joe's novel, *Bush Falls*, is mentioned throughout the story as the justification for any incidents that occur between Joe and the people of Bush Falls. One example is how Joe has a milkshake thrown at him by the wife of the high school basketball coach, whom Joe falsely had portrayed as a pedophile.



Such cheap shots express the inner anger of Joe, who blames the intolerance of his hometown for the suicide of his best friend, Sammy. While Joe copes with his father's deteriorating health, he attempts to make amends with his brother, Brad. Unlike Joe, Brad was raised as an insider in the community, caused by Brad's tenure as a star on the Bush Falls High School basketball team. Since Joe, who did not play basketball, embodies the outsider, Tropper uses this novel to express the close fraternity that sports creates.

The bulk of this story reveals a man's attempt to reconnect with his past. Luckily, Tropper is able to get his moral across to the reader through the humorous deconstruction of the protagonist. I highly recommend this book to any reader who enjoys the humor of drugs and/or sex. However, I would not recommend this book to anyone who has ever used the words *moral fiber*.

Rating: 3 Kinches (out of 4)



The Redwalls at MBA

by Rob Broadhurst
Staff Writer

The Redwalls are an All-American rock band with a very British sound. Started in Deerfield, IL as a British Invasion cover band, they soon attracted Capital records. They are now on tour opening for Oasis. Their sound is reminiscent of the Rolling Stones, The Beatles, The Band, Creedence, and Bob Dylan. They create a mix of the rock of old intertwined with a more modern feel.

The album, *De Nova*, starts off with a song titled "Robinson Crusoe," which was the perfect song to start, for it really pulls you in. Then they jump into the song "Falling Down", which is a song bashing the FCC. It is a song with a message, but the sound isn't as appealing as "Crusoe". "Thank You" follows up "Falling" with a smooth, ballad feel, which carries on into "Love Her" and "Build a Bridge". The band then begins rocking again with "On My Way" and "It's Alright". The next song, "Front Page," starts off a more modern sound, which shows The Redwall's more original edge. "How The Story Goes" veers back into the ballad-like softer area. "Glory of War"

then introduces a new feel to the album. The song is a protest song against war; it is a fine song, but with its acoustic guitar it is entirely out of place in the album. The album finishes with "Rock & Roll," a mindless ramble which is a great ending to a great album.

The Redwalls do a great job with their sophomore album, and I hope that they continue their great work. I highly recommend The Redwall's *De Nova* for people who enjoy light rock and with a slightly British tone.

Editors' note: This album was sent to the Bell Ringer free of charge, and therefore we felt it was our civic duty to express our opinions. Hint: Free free to send us things for free.

The Best of New Indie: Four Recent Releases You Probably Haven't Heard

by Will Orman
Staff Writer

With the exception of my friends, on whom I basically force my taste in music - just short of brainwashing - I assume that most of the MBA community would be very perplexed if I merely started dropping names throughout a review. Here is a rundown of the best few albums to come out in the last four or five weeks, and I'll make an effort to introduce you to at least one artist you haven't heard before.

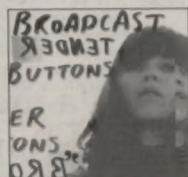
Broken Social Scene - *Broken Social Scene*



Broken Social Scene is the long-awaited third album from this Canadian band after the immense success of 2002's *You Forgot It In People*, which got rave reviews in most major music publications and websites. I personally thought it was overrated; there were only a few songs that I really enjoyed, and others just plodded along and made no statement. This self-titled album, however, adds about seven more band members and, of course, brings more elements and thickness to every track. The opener, "Our Faces Split the Coast in Half," is a disjointed introduction of sorts with very few constant motives in the music, and its quiet, seemingly improvised vocal melody is random and almost out of place. With any other band, such a muddled track would sound messy, but somehow Broken Social Scene let it flow, and it actually seems like just a progressive opener. "7/4 (Shoreline)" is gimmicky, with the immediate indication of its unusual time signature in the title of the song, but Feist's vocals perfectly trade off with a BSS chorus of sorts, and as the song progresses, the guitars get louder and multiply, fade out, fade in and climax with what could be dozens of people shouting the closing line. This song alone could be an introduction, and, therefore, the first three tracks serve as an extended preparation for the more structured songs throughout the rest of the album. "Windsurfing Nation" and "Swimmers" are the centerpiece of the album; "Windsurfing Nation" uses a wide variety of drum and guitar loops until airy vocals chime in a chorus and Feist shouts over the noise throughout the rest of the song, and the generally jumbled vocals throughout the song give the impression of a crowd, perhaps a diverse community

vying for some goal. "All they want is freedom," is a mixture of tones and voices that really sound like a protest. "Swimmers," featuring Emily Haines, the strongest vocalist to appear on this album, is a soft track accented with horns and scolding, but gentle in tone; it is merely a very pretty song. "Bandwidth" has Feist singing a wordless melody throughout it in between verses by one of the two main vocalists of the band, and the atmosphere and feeling of the song increases and falls away, embracing the listener and then pushing them away as it dissolves. The song is vaguely tribal in style and very subtle in melody, but its climax is emphasized and powerful. "It's All Gonna Break," the closer, is nearly ten minutes long. When tracks of this length appear on albums with songs of mostly average length, it prompts the listener to wonder what they believe the band has that can hold their attention for ten whole minutes. BSS, however, employ six or seven sections throughout this song: a truly epic end to an incredibly diverse and avant-garde album. The song is clearly divided into these sections, as it quiets down and builds up into the full song again nearly every time. BSS are very ambitious to submit such an attention-demanding project, but it is consistent and generally well-developed.

Broadcast - *Tender Buttons*



Tender Buttons is a great surprise after their last album, *Haha Sound*. Where *Haha Sound* did not develop much over the course of the album and sometimes had songs that outlasted any time worth your attention, *Tender Buttons* has an ideal flow that shifts easily from lulling electronic ballads ("Arc of a Journey") to downright dance-worthy tracks with charmingly bizarre lyrics ("Michael A Grammar" - "My feet

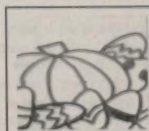
are dancing so much/and I hate that"). Somehow this improved sound comes from the departure of their drummer from the band, and only two members are left to develop their best album yet. Some tracks sound as if they were inspired by the minimalist new wave band Young Marble Giants ("Tender Buttons") with simple rhythm guitar, electronics hovering over the mix, and Trish Keenan's soft, melodic voice bubbling up between the instruments. It's not too heavy on the keyboards if that turns you off, so don't fear a techno assault - it's mainly just a solid pop album with a hint of electronics. I use the term "pop" loosely, not in the sense you would assume; these songs are just catchy enough to have you singing

along.

Animal Collective - *Feels*



Feels is a return to form for this ambiguous group of young musicians; it sounds more like the spacey dissonance of *Here Comes the Indian* than the freakfolk (I really did not make up that term) of *Sung Tongs*, but with all the infectious melodies to which the interweaving vocals of nearly every song on the latter contributed. Animal Collective have added several members, enhancing their sound and improving the background vocals even more. With a variety of percussive rhythms and long songs that do not meander at all but develop and climax perfectly over even 8+ minute tracks, they have a denser quality than they ever have before. *Feels* uses a variety of styles in every song, and even tribal howls replace a standard chorus in songs like "Grass," which is the single and the best introductory song to this album. It literally gets better with each listen. Even slower songs like "Daffy Duck" and "Loch Raven" do not detract from the feel of the album, which is somewhat of a camping trip celebration, designed for sing-along parties. The closer, "Turn Into Something," contains the most unexpectedly introduced rhythm, very offbeat and organic for the first half



of its six and a half minutes, and then it dissolves into cascading piano and wandering guitar. This last track stands as a recap of the whole album with its most creative percussion section and its most elegant closing few minutes, and Animal Collective truly round out a spectacularly experimental album with its most accessible and original track.

Wolf Parade - *Apologies to the Queen Mary*



Apologies to the Queen Mary is primarily lumped into the group of new indie rock bands that are somehow related to The Arcade Fire (in case you didn't know, The Arcade Fire put out an album in September of last year and were immensely hyped, but entirely for good reason) and have a somewhat out-of-tune singer. The difference between Wolf Parade and, for example, Clap Your Hands Say Yeah (self-released, reviewed on Pitchfork Media, also very hyped) is that Wolf Parade's songs have better structure, and the singers' (as I have recently discovered, there are actually two singers in this band and they mostly swap off vocal duties) only slightly off voices are more bearable than that of CYHSY's singer. Wolf Parade have the best underlying guitar riffs that I have ever heard; for example, "Modern World" and "We Built Another World" both reach a point around the middle when a new riff is introduced, and it changes the sound of the song entirely. As simple a concept as it is, they are very skilled at developing a melody with only one new theme in a track. "Modern World" and "Dear Sons and Daughters of Hungry Ghosts" also show off another strong talent that Wolf Parade have: excellent use of background vocals. It may seem trivial, but they strengthen their respective songs greatly simply by having the same backing melody. "It's a Curse" is the most upbeat song on the album, and even in a minor key it feels like a triumph. Overall, it stands as a very strong indie rock album, and while it does not introduce very many new styles to the scene, its technique is far more developed than many other bands have.

That's Two!!

A Satirical Look at MBA's Disciplinary System

- The Big Red Scare -

by Clayton Lainhart
Staff Writer

Attention Fellow Workers! There are rebels amongst us. In recent months, many of our brothers have been stepping out of line. Everywhere there are untucked shirts, unkempt facial features, ankle socks, paper football, cell phones being used and slanderous articles

about our glorious school on the internet. These acts attempt to undermine our great institution.

A problem that has plagued our commune-ity for generations is dress code infractions by revolutionary members of the lower classes. The proletariat must look respectable and gentlemanly or our productivity could falter. This is why the dress code is in place.

The thought that some of our brothers would show their ankles by wearing short socks is simply ridiculous. This action is completely counter-productive and seems more fitting of a Hillsboro student.

Thankfully, the athletic teams have been re-educated in the ways of the gentleman and have stopped their team members from wearing ankle socks.

Similarly, the swim team stopped their members from being involved in this highly subversive activity by changing their uniform (see picture).

Without these steps taken by the administration to curtail and eventually eliminate all ankle socks from the MBA campus, it is scary to think of the anarchical state down to which the school would dissolve.

Even more troubling is the playing of paper football by the upper members of the proletariat, the senior class, during their study hall. Study hall is meant for the lower classes to optimize their time so that they can become more efficient. The administration quickly put down this subversive behavior and banned paper football.

Since then, the senior class's productivity level has increased ten fold. The senior room has become a sanctuary for hard, glorious work that means to promote our commune-ity. Many great works of art have been provided by the seniors to entertain the state.

Also, the astronaut club is now actively recruiting members, and comrade Nelson has published a book of his famous propaganda quote in order to inspire the lower classes to work hard. He is now working on a book explaining how to identify impersonations in order to catch spies. He is an expert on the subject.

Luckily, with the abolishment of paper football, the senior class is on track to achieve its mandatory 100% college acceptance ranking.

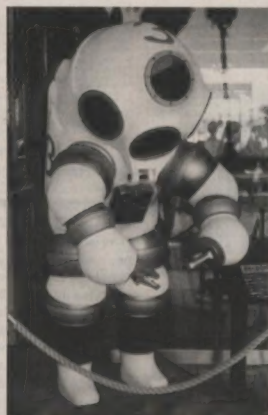
The administration has also reported that further measures will be taken in order to increase study hall productivity. Chess, magazines, and newspapers have all been banned from the library and CoachT.com and ESPN.com have been banned from all MBA network computers. These acts alone are predicted to increase productivity by no less than 50%.

The administration is planning to announce soon that it will prohibit all websites from MBA computers except for MBA's homepage, for it is glorious. This action would help to

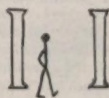
keep our fellow workers from reading subversive materials, or, even worse, writing subversive documents. Actions such as these have been reported, and the administration has taken measures to re-educate these rebels. These abuses of technology to voice one's free speech must be controlled and stopped at all costs.

Furthermore, our fellow comrades have been using cellular communication devices within the walls of our glorious campus. These devices have been found to contain revolutionary and subversive materials. These materials were found, of course, by accident by members of the administration.

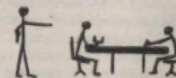
Lastly the evil of music has invaded our commune-ity through many capitalist companies. iPods and other such audio-devices have been found in the possession of multiple members of the lower classes. This can not be tolerated.



Buck Curley tries on the latest in aqua-speed technology



flawed ideas of old. Conform to the ways of our commune-ity. The individual is



"Find something to do!"

Come to Harpeth Hall's Haunted Halloween Dance Saturday October, 29

October 31st Movie Night *The Ring* 7pm

The capitalist propaganda that these devices bring into our commune-ity is simply unacceptable. The free-thought and revolutionary ideas, which all music contains, are destructive and unproductive. Studies by the administration have shown that by listening to music the inefficiency of the lower classes increases by at least 85%.

The Jazz and Rock Bands have finally been terminated after a long fight with the free-thinkers that had infiltrated our campus, and now this new threat to our society must be eradicated.

However, the treason against the commune-ity does not stop there. Our fellow brothers all around commit acts of subversion all the time. You must report these acts. Vigilance is mandatory.

In the end it is up to us, comrades! We must submit and change our ways. Abandon your

poisonous to the whole. They have no place here. The subversive and revolutionary ideas present in our community must be quelled.

It is a great relief that these are the only problems that the administration has to deal with. Luckily, they have already stamped out such problems as drinking, drug abuse, womanizing, homophobia, and social ignorance.

Always remember what our great leader Karl Marx said in his *Manifesto*, "In the place of the old bourgeoisie society... we shall have an association in which the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all."

Hail Big... MBA!

On a more serious note:
The Bell Ringer would like to remind all MBA students to have a safe Halloween!



Julia Reed Talks About Floods and Corruption in New Orleans



"It's the silver lining in all of this. . . I hope that citizens will become more engaged after things were so broken to begin with, we have a real chance to start over."

"It was how I imagine Hiroshima would have looked after it was bombed."

Music in the Round:



Zan Berry accompanied by Dr. Cassel

Dave Dravecky Speaks in Assembly



Flamboyant Sweater Day



Below: Jason Wallace plays the violin





Compliments of a Friend

From a Member of the MBA Class of '63